

Message

From: Marianne Engelman Lado [mengelmanlado@earthjustice.org]
Sent: 6/6/2016 1:55:53 PM
To: Dorka, Lilian [Dorka.Lilian@epa.gov]
CC: Ali, Mustafa [Ali.Mustafa@epa.gov]; gupta.vanita@usdoj.gov; 'Neal, Daria (CRT)' [Daria.Neal@usdoj.gov]; Irene Gutierrez [igutierrez@earthjustice.org]; Leah Aden (laden@naacpldf.org) [laden@naacpldf.org]; nrobertson@ggu.edu; Jonathan J. Smith [jjsmith@earthjustice.org]; Haragan, Kelly L (kharagan@law.utexas.edu) [kharagan@law.utexas.edu]; John Philo (jphilo@sugarlaw.org) (jphilo@sugarlaw.org) [jphilo@sugarlaw.org]; Zee, M. Andrew (CIV) (M.Andrew.Zee@usdoj.gov) [M.Andrew.Zee@usdoj.gov]; Pieh, Lusenii [Pieh.Lusenii@epa.gov]
Subject: Community Engagement in Title VI Investigations
Attachments: EJ Letter to OCR re Consultation 06 06 16.pdf

Dear Ms. Dorka:

Attached please find a letter submitted on behalf of St. Francis Prayer Center, Californians for Renewable Energy, Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter, Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping and Ashurst Bar/Smith Community Organization.

We appreciate the effort made on Friday to inform complainant CARE of the EPA's intent to issue a resolution letter before such letter became public. At the same time, EPA's failure to engage CARE and community stakeholders earlier in the process repeated many of the same mistakes that have plagued the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) in the past. Complainants had planned to send a letter to reiterate their request that OCR engage Complainants in the investigation process even before last Friday's call regarding the CARE complaint. That call, however, added to the sense of urgency. Complainants implore the OCR to take a different path: OCR's activities must adhere to its goals and the principles of environmental justice – that is, members of affected communities must have “an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health” and decision-makers must “seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.” See <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/learn-about-environmental-justice>.

Thank you for your attention. Complainants would welcome the opportunity to discuss the issues raised in the letter, their Title VI Complaints and a path forward.

Sincerely,

Marianne

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